

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
TRSE-00 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 DHA-02 EB-07 OMB-01
COME-00 AGRE-00 ORM-02 VO-03 SCA-01 /082 W
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P R 211429Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3278
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1580

BELGRADE ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, BU
SUBJECT: CSCE DEMARCHE

REF: A) STATE 139514; B) STATE 166224; C) STATE 169644; D) SOFIA 1470

1. AS IT TURNS OUT NO TIME HAS BEEN LOST BY THE OVERSIGHT BY WHICH SOFIA WAS LEFT OFF ORIGINAL DISTRIBUTION FOR REF A. I HAVE APPOINTMENTS FOR FAREWELL CALLS ON FOREIGN MINISTER MLADENOV JULY 27 AND PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV JULY 28. THESE SHOULD PROVIDE SUITABLE OCCASIONS FOR REVIEW OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND OUR COMMON UNDERTAKINGS UNDER CSCE. ACCORDINGLY, REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO.

2. BOTH WITH MLADENOV AND ZHIVKOV, I PROPOSE TO BEGIN BY
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REVIEWING THE PROGRESS OF OUR RELATIONS OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS. IN COURSE OF THIS REVIEW, I WOULD NATURALLY EXPRESS USG APPRECIATION FOR THE GREAT STRIDES MADE IN RESOLVING DIVIDED FAMILY CASES, AND NOTE THE IMPORTANT ROLE THESE CASES AND THEIR RESOLUTION PLAY IN SHAPING CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC OPINION. I WOULD ALSO MENTION THAT WHILE MANY CASES THUS HAVE BEEN RESOLVED, SOME CASES OF URGENT

HUMANITARIAN CONCERN REMAIN. I WOULD PASS MLADENOV A LIST OF UNRESOLVED CASES OF WHICH WE HAVE KNOWLEDGE AT PRESENT -- ABOUT A DOZEN IN ALL.

3. DIVIDED FAMILY THEME PROVIDES A NATURAL LEAD-IN TO CSCE DISCUSSION. AFTER SOME GENERAL OBSERVATIONS, I WOULD EMPHASIZE OUR HOPES FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE ON CSCE BOTH ON OUR CONTINUING BILATERAL BASIS AND AT BELGRADE. I WOULD MENTION THAT WE SEE VISITS SUCH AS THOSE OF LYUDMILLA ZHIVKOVA AND VULKAN SHOPOV, AND THE FORTHCOMING VISITS OF NACHO PAPAZOV AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER KRUSTEV, NOT ONLY AS SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS BUT ALSO VERY MUCH IN KEEPING WITH INTENTIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. IF DEPT APPROVES, I WOULD SAY THAT WE HOPE TO EXTEND INVITATIONS ALSO TO OTHER CENTRAL COMMITTEE DEPT HEADS AND SECRETARIES IN DUE COURSE, AS WE HAVE DONE IN OTHER EE COUNTRIES. I WOULD NOTE THAT MUCH REMAINS TO BE DONE, ON BOTH SIDES; WE DO NOT EXPECT INSTANT ARRIVAL OF THE MILLENIUM AND ASSUME GOB DOES NOT EITHER. DOUBTLESS GOB WILL HAVE OBSERVATIONS ABOUT US PERFORMANCE AND USG WILL LISTEN WITH CARE AND ATTENTION. FOR OUR PART, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING:

A. ALTHOUGH GOB HAS TAKEN SOME STEPS UNDER BASKET TWO WHICH FACILITATE THE ACTIVITIES OF BUSINESSMEN IN THEIR EFFORTS TO EXPAND TRADE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, MUCH CONFIDENTIAL

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REMAINS TO BE DONE TO GIVE FULL EFFECT TO BASKET TWO. RESTRICTIONS ON APPOINTMENTS AND ACCESS REMAIN SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS AND GREATLY HAMPER TRADE EXPANSION. SO, TOO, DOES DEARTH OF STATISTICAL AND ECONOMIC DATA WHICH INTERNATIONAL TRADERS NEED AND WHICH BASKET TWO CALLS FOR. IN THIS REGARD, BULGARIA IS MUCH BEHIND POLAND AND HUNGARY.

B. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION. ALTHOUGH SOME FEW WESTERN NONCOMMUNIST NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES APPEAR IRREGULARLY AT HOTELS (WHERE THEY ARE RESERVED FOR HOTEL GUESTS AND BULGARIANS MAY NOT BUY THEM), AND ON A VERY FEW NEWSTANDS, THIS CAN IN NO WAY BE SAID TO EVEN BEGIN TO APPROXIMATE STANDARDS SET IN FINAL ACT ON FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION. IN US, SUBSCRIPTIONS TO PUBLICATIONS FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES MAY FREELY BE ENTERED BY ANYONE, WHICH ENSURES THAT ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED MAY RECEIVE PUBLICATIONS OF THEIR CHOICE. NO SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE POSSIBLE HERE. WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT GREAT NUMBER OF FOREIGN BOOKS ARE TRANSLATED AND PUBLISHED IN BULGARIA, FACT REMAINS THAT REFERENCE AND STANDARD WORKS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH ARE DIFFICULT EVEN FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH TO COME BY.

C. TRAVEL. I WOULD REFER TO OUR RECENT REVISED PROPOSAL ON LIFTING OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR DIPLOMATS. PROVIDED DEPT HAS BY THAT TIME GIVEN ITS APPROVAL TO REF D, WHICH DEALS WITH MUTUAL ELIMINATION OF VISA FEES AND ASSOCIATED COSTS, I WOULD SAY TO MLADENOV THAT USG WILL SHORTLY MAKE TO GOB A FAR-REACHING PROPOSAL WHICH WE BELIEVE WILL GREATLY FACILITATE TRAVEL BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES FOR BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE PURPOSES, IN KEEPING WITH FINAL ACT.

4. FAREWELL CALLS ARE USUALLY SCHEDULED FOR HALF AN HOUR. DEPT WILL APPRECIATE THAT MLADENOV WILL HAVE REJOINDERS TO ALL THE ABOVE POINTS, AND LIKELY WILL RAISE CONFIDENTIAL

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MFN, RFE/RL, VISA FREE REGIME, ETC. THERE IS NO GUARANTEE I WILL GET THROUGH THE ENTIRE SCRIPT, BUT BELIEVE DIVIDED FAMILIES AND POINT 3B CAN BE GOTTEN IN EVEN IF THE INTERVIEW IS ABBREVIATED. WHILE WE SHOULD INDEED NOT EXPECT THE MILLENIUM, PARTICULARLY IN STAUNCHLY ORTHODOX BULGARIA, DEMARCHE ALONG ABOVE LINES MAY HAVE BENEFITS, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION WITH SOME OF THE MORE DIFFICULT DIVIDED FAMILY CASES.
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